



**Butte
Environmental
Council**

Office

116 W. Second Street
Suite 3
Chico, CA 95928
530/891-6424
530/891-6426 Fax

Activities and Events

Environmental Education
Recycling Referrals
Environmental Advocacy
Endangered Species Faire
Bidwell Park Cleanups
Chico Area Creek Cleanups
Wetlands Preservation

Board of Directors

Zoe Barnett
Lynn Barris
Armeda Ferrini
Mark Gailey
Chuck Lundgren

General Manager

Barbara Vlamis

Office Manager

Events Coordinator

Mary Muchowski

01464
JUL 01 1998
6-28-98

Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Comments on Programmatic EIS/EIR

Butte Environmental Council applauds CalFed's addition of Watershed Management to the core elements. As we all know, watershed management is about preserving or restoring healthy ecosystems and sustainable communities. In our area, our hydrology and our environment are nearly balanced. In fact we use slightly more water annually than is replaced. We hope CalFed will honor the prevailing watershed philosophy of ecological health. We in the North state will not allow our environment to go into a spiraling decline to shift water to other areas, especially through water transfers, another core element. Water transfers, out of basin or during drought years will hasten the demise of habitats that are still natural and living on the groundwater levels we have now. Natural communities thrive in our oak woodlands and riparian woodlands, including many listed or endangered plant, bird, mammal, and fish species. Both of these woodland communities are tied to their trees being able to reach groundwater. The environment, though having older than pre-1914 water rights, is not a willing seller!

Butte Environmental Council joins other environmental groups around the state in suggesting that CalFed select a 4th Alternative based on water conservation and the restoration of watersheds to improve water quality and quantity.

CalFed's draft documents do not reflect the full potential for water conservation to meet California's water needs. Even the DWR projections in B160-98 are suspect at this time for both water needs and conservation. Some urban areas do not even meter their water, and we have only begun to tap the potential for efficient home fixtures, reducing water use for landscaping, and water recycling. Since this plan calls for implementation over the next 30-50 years newly emerging technologies need to be reviewed and integrated into the equation.

CalFed should maximize environmentally friendly ways to capture and store water, such as restoring meadows, wetlands and forests. These restorations combined w/riverbank restoration also enable nature to filter out pollution, making rivers healthier for people and wildlife.

Conservation and restoration are often less expensive options for saving water and improving the reliability of the supply. BEC believes that CalFed should



**Butte
Environmental
Council**

Office

116 W. Second Street
Suite 3
Chico, CA 95928
530/891-6424
530/891-6426 Fax

Activities and Events

Environmental Education
Recycling Referrals
Environmental Advocacy
Endangered Species Faire
Bidwell Park Cleanups
Chico Area Creek Cleanups
Wetlands Preservation

Board of Directors

Zoe Barnett
Lynn Barris
Armeda Ferrini
Mark Gailey
Chuck Lundgren

General Manager

Barbara Vlamis

Office Manager

Events Coordinator

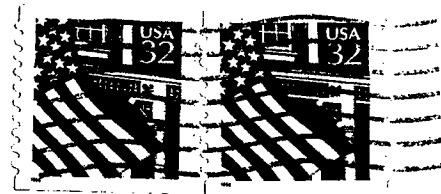
Mary Muchowski

spend our money making sure that they have done all we can in these departments.

Sincerely,

Lynn Barris
Board of Directors, Chairperson

BEC
116 W. Second St, Suite 3
Chico, CA 95928



JUL 01 1998

Cal Fed
1416 Ninth St, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA
95814

DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES
SACRAMENTO
98 JUL - 1 AM 10:47

PEIS/EIR
Comments

C-013725

C-013725